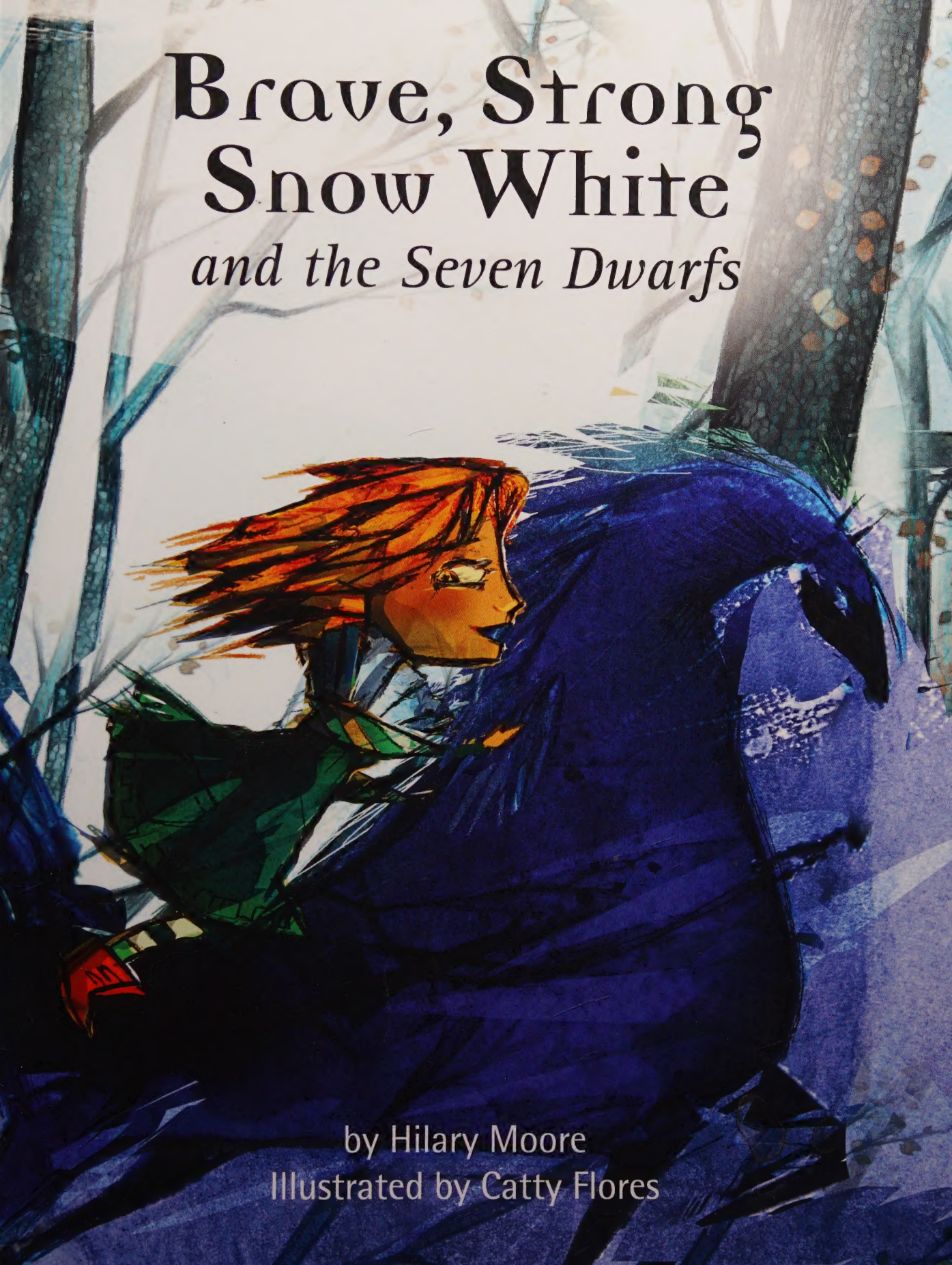



Brave, Strong Snow White *and the Seven Dwarfs*

A stylized illustration of Snow White riding a large, dark blue horse through a forest. Snow White has long, flowing blonde hair and is wearing a green dress with a red belt. The horse is galloping to the right. The background features tall, thin trees with sparse foliage, and the ground is covered in a layer of snow or light-colored ground. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

by Hilary Moore
Illustrated by Catty Flores



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Brave, Strong Snow White *and the Seven Dwarfs*

by Hilary Moore
Illustrated by Catty Flores



*Dedicated to the author's daughter, Iona,
who inspired this story
and*

*Dedicated to the illustrator's daughter, Moana,
who is already a brave, strong girl!*

Diversity ✧
Publishing

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nce upon a time, a strong, brave princess was born during a whirling blizzard that covered all the land in sparkling snow. Her parents named her Snow White.

The little princess was clever, full of fun and very kind. She was also a rascal at times. She loved wearing clothes in all the colors of the rainbow and spent her days climbing trees, running races and paddling in the river close to her home. Her mother and father loved her very much.





ne day, when Snow White was 10 years old, her father the King died. Snow White cried rivers of tears. But she was also very brave. Little by little, Snow White's laughter and sparkling spirit returned.





year later, the Queen married another man. His name was Roderick. Roderick was full of smiles and charm, yet Snow White did not trust him. After the wedding, Roderick became cruel. Every time the Queen was out of sight, he would give Snow White orders. He talked to Snow White as if she didn't have much of a brain at all – which was simply ridiculous!





Roderick's most treasured possession was a magic mirror, which he had won in a battle with a wizard. The magic mirror told him anything he wanted to know. One day, he asked it:

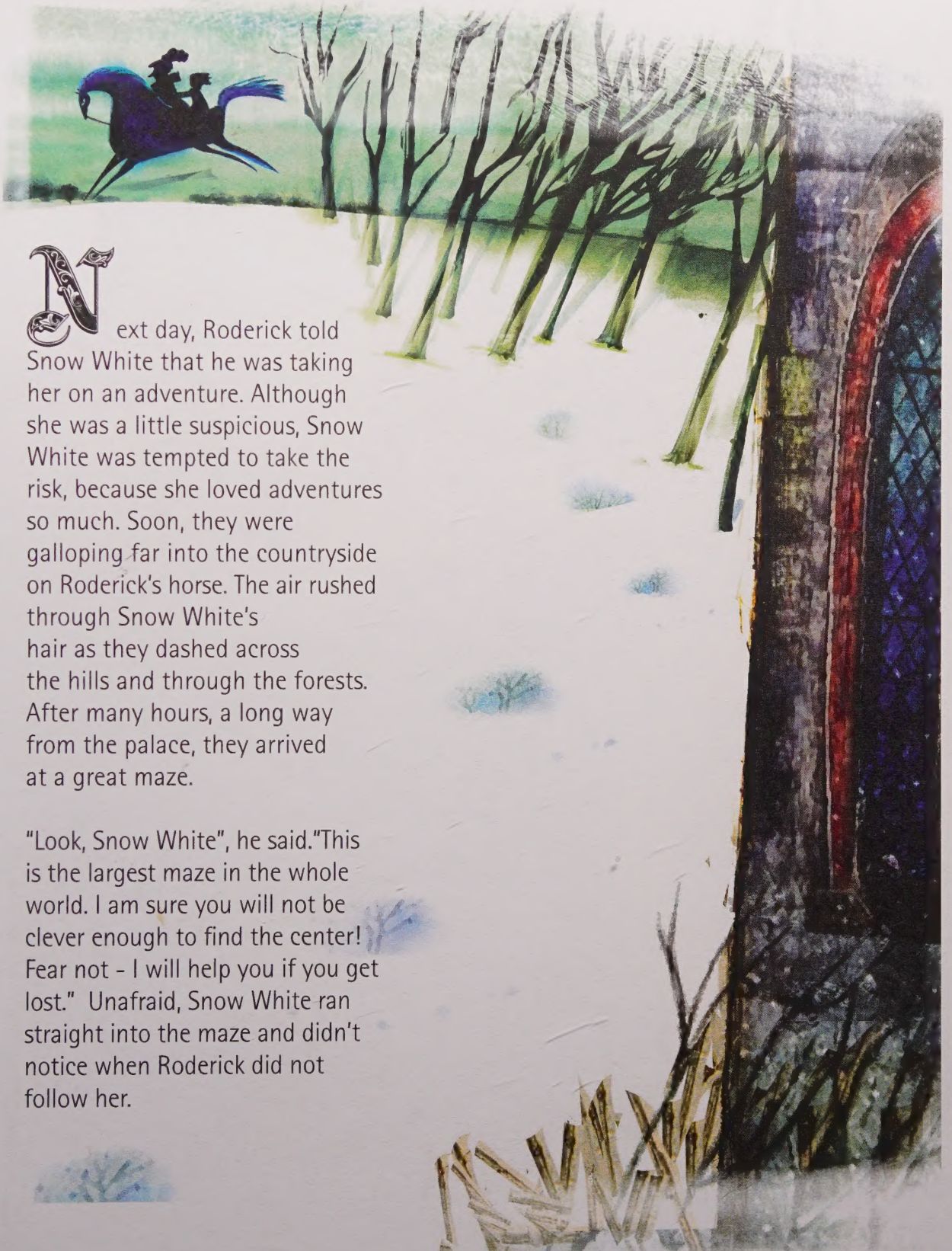
"Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is the cleverest of them all?"

He stood by the mirror, his chest puffing upwards to the sky.
He expected the mirror to say that he was the cleverest person in the kingdom,
but the mirror believed in telling the truth.
Can you guess what it answered?

"Roderick, Roderick – arrogant man,
I will tell you the truth as best I can.
You are not the cleverest – not at all!
It's sparkling Snow White who's cleverest of all!"

When Roderick heard the mirror's words, he was so furious
that his neck turned to the color of fire.
He decided to take Snow White
far beyond the palace walls
and leave her alone
to die.





N

ext day, Roderick told Snow White that he was taking her on an adventure. Although she was a little suspicious, Snow White was tempted to take the risk, because she loved adventures so much. Soon, they were galloping far into the countryside on Roderick's horse. The air rushed through Snow White's hair as they dashed across the hills and through the forests. After many hours, a long way from the palace, they arrived at a great maze.

"Look, Snow White", he said. "This is the largest maze in the whole world. I am sure you will not be clever enough to find the center! Fear not - I will help you if you get lost." Unafraid, Snow White ran straight into the maze and didn't notice when Roderick did not follow her.



nce Snow White had disappeared into the maze, Roderick galloped home. "That will be the end of Snow White!" he chuckled to himself.

Snow White was indeed clever enough to find the center of the maze. By then, though, darkness had started to fall and there was no sign of Roderick to help her find her way. Snow White felt cold and a little frightened. She called out for help, but there was no answer, except for some swallows twittering to her from above.

'Oh well', thought Snow White. 'I shall just have to help myself'. Plucking up her courage, she set off. Now Snow White was very good at remembering things, so she retraced her steps and chose mostly the correct turns. But oh, the maze was so huge that *mostly* just wasn't good enough. After an hour of trying, she sat down on a little mound of grass to have a rest and to think. What could she do next?







now White looked at the setting sun as it painted rose-gold pictures in the sky. She noticed the friendly swallows again, flying gracefully above her head. They were chattering to her even more loudly than before. Of course! They could see over the bushes. Quickly, she reached into the walls of the maize, gripped the branches and started climbing. The towering hedges were prickly, but after slipping once or twice, she managed to reach the top. Now she could see what the swallows could see – the details of the maze and the beautiful countryside beyond. She looked carefully over the huge maze and quickly memorized the twists and turns she needed to escape.

Landing on the ground, graceful as a cat, she began to run – left, right, right, left – faster and faster, the swallows following her overhead. Soon she recognized the path she was on and was sure of the way out. She and the birds sailed along beside one another until finally they were free!





now White looked out over the countryside. It was almost dark and a silvery moon was beginning to gleam in the sky.

But wait a moment – what could she hear in the distance?

Singing! And she could see lights! Snow White waited as a little trail of lanterns came towards her and the singing became louder and louder.

"Oh, Six Dwarfs,
yes six dwarfs,
yes six dwarfs are we.
We've worked all day,
From dawn to dusk
and now we want some tea."

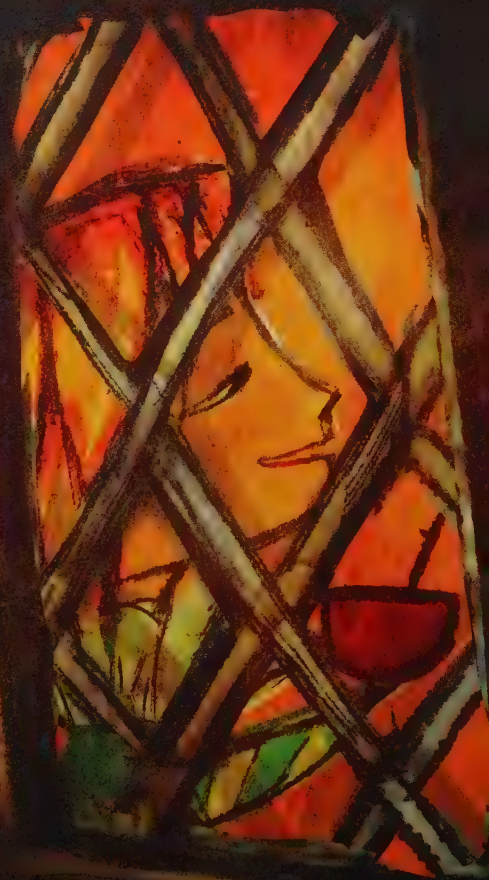




y the time the song ended, Snow White was faced with the most amazing sight – six little dwarfs, three men and three women, covered in dirt from head to toe, looking at her as if she were the amazing one! They seemed a little frightened at first, but Snow White quickly explained what had happened.

Keen to help, the dwarfs invited her to stay in their cottage for the night. They set off together, singing and dancing through the hills.

When they arrived at the little cottage, Snow White met a seventh dwarf, who had stayed behind to take care of the house. He had cooked a meal for the hungry workers. Snow White and the seven dwarfs ate steaming plates of spaghetti and beans – two of Snow White's favorite foods! They fell asleep happily in a higgledy piggledy heap, by the warm glow of the fire.







Back at the castle, Roderick was feeling very pleased with himself. With Snow White gone, he would definitely be the cleverest in the kingdom. He stared into the mirror and asked again:

Mirror, mirror on the wall,
Who is the cleverest of them all?

The mirror whispered back its answer:

Roderick, Roderick, evil man
I will tell you the truth, as best I can
You're still not the cleverest – not at all!
Snow White is the cleverest of them all!



Roderick then saw, shining from within the mirror, an image of Snow White and the seven dwarfs. She looked healthy. She looked happy. She was helping the dwarfs with their work!

Roderick was so furious that he threw the mirror onto the cold, stone floor. It shattered and sparkled into a thousand pieces. Roderick decided he must find Snow White and poison her.



W

hen Snow White and the dwarfs were returning from work the next day, they saw a mysterious man riding through the forest towards them. Snow White looked at the man very carefully. His face was covered in shadow – but still looked familiar. He was carrying a basket of delicious apples – but they looked a dangerous dark red. He was wearing a very old cloak – yet his horse was magnificent. Something was very strange about this man.





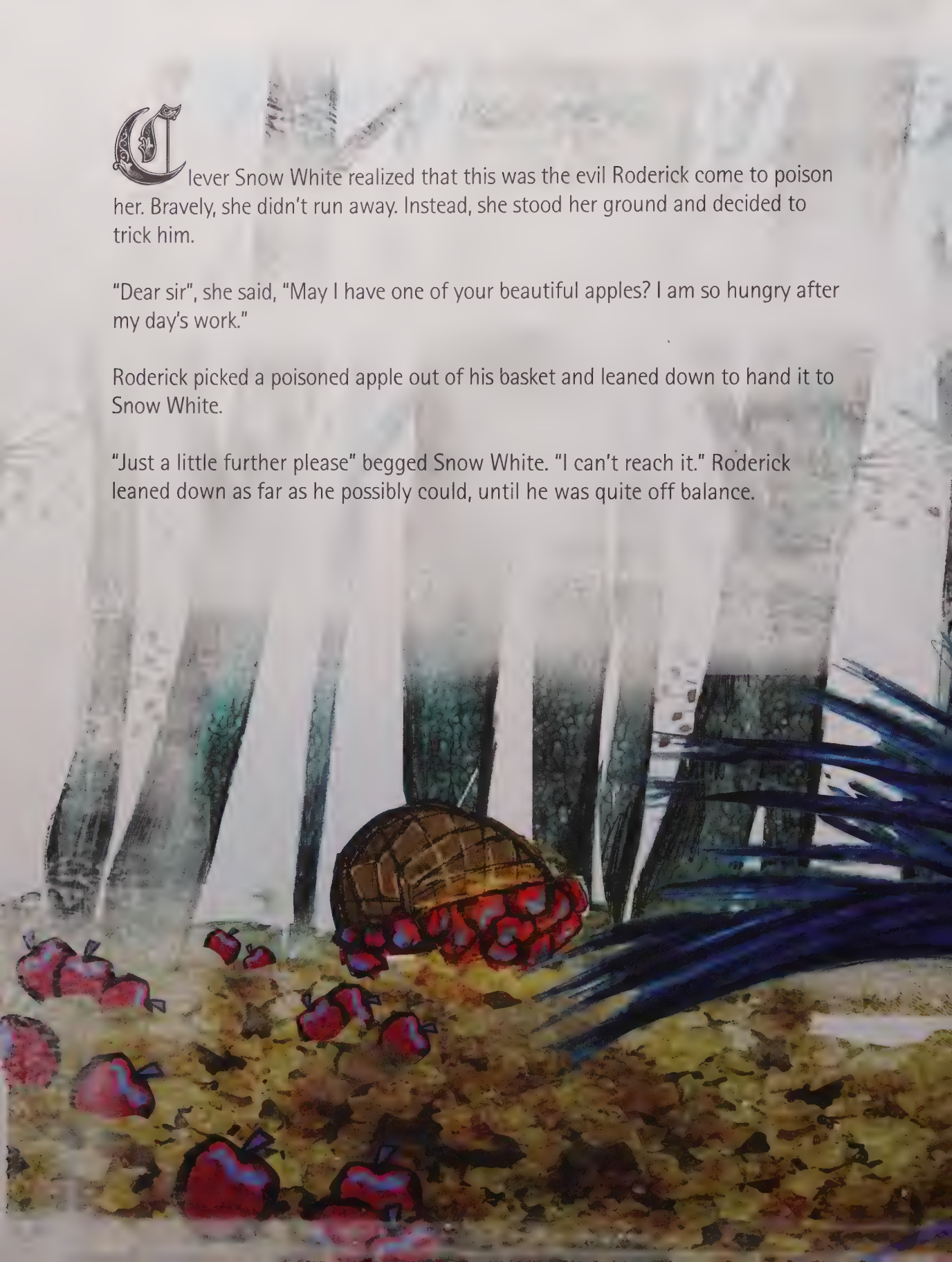


lever Snow White realized that this was the evil Roderick come to poison her. Bravely, she didn't run away. Instead, she stood her ground and decided to trick him.

"Dear sir", she said, "May I have one of your beautiful apples? I am so hungry after my day's work."

Roderick picked a poisoned apple out of his basket and leaned down to hand it to Snow White.

"Just a little further please" begged Snow White. "I can't reach it." Roderick leaned down as far as he possibly could, until he was quite off balance.





T

hen - quick as a flash -
Snow White grabbed Roderick's wrist
and pulled him off his horse. She
shouted to the dwarfs to tie him up
before he had a chance to escape.
Once he was captured, she leapt
onto the great horse and started
galloping back towards the palace.

A

fter hours of riding, Snow White arrived home. The Queen was overjoyed to find her alive and held her in her arms for hours. When Snow White told the Queen about Roderick, the Queen banished him from the kingdom forever.

The Queen never married again. She and Snow White ruled their kingdom together for many years. They were wise and strong leaders who cared for their people.





now White still found time to climb trees and play in the river. And every year, the seven dwarfs and the swallows visited the palace. They would meet with the queen and they would all celebrate Snow White's courage with a great feast. And everyone - except nasty Roderick - lived happily ever after.



HILARY MOORE

Hilary is a busy mom who works in international business. She has a PhD and MBA and has published several books.

Most importantly, she is mother of five-year-old Iona - a girl she hopes will grow up brave and strong, inspired by great girl role models in the books she reads. There aren't many of those great role models in traditional fairy tales, so Hilary decided to write some!

100% of the profits from the 'Brave Strong Girls' go to charities that help to educate and empower girls around the world.

CATTY FLORES

Catty was born in Paris but moved to Spain when her family decided to return home. At an early age she began exploring the art of playing with water, pencils, hands and colours. Catty loved to redecorate and filled every space she could reach. Needless to say, her family was horrified.

Fortunately, this mischievousness gave back lots of challenges and satisfaction over the years. The most recent one has been working on the Brave, Strong Girls series, a beautiful opportunity to help overcome stereotypes and preconceptions.

Catty's artistic playmates have included international publishing houses and advertising agencies like M&C Saatchi London, Gruner Jahr Mondadori and Helbling Languages.
www.cattyflores.com

The 'Brave Strong Girls' concept

100% of the profits from the 'Brave Strong Girls' series will go to charities that help to educate and empower girls around the world.

The Brave, Strong Girls series is specially created to give children strong girl role models in the books they read, with female characters who are resilient, who are brave, and who think for themselves. Fairy tales have a wonderful place in young children's lives – sparking their imagination and teaching them about life. Unfortunately, the traditional versions are unfair to girls and women. Almost all the evil characters are older women, jealous of their younger counterparts. The young girl characters are often judged only on their beauty. They also spend much of their time totally passive – asleep, trapped, or helpless victims. They make silly mistakes and their only chance of a happy ending is to be rescued by, or married to, a prince.

We know this does not reflect reality, and the Brave, Strong Girls Series is putting this right! It's a series for girls and boys – both gain a lot from seeing female characters they can respect. The books are fun and beautifully illustrated. They keep the magic and beauty of the traditional fairytales, while also sending much better messages about the amazing talents and courage of girls and women.

Other books in the series:

Brave Strong Leonie and the Race of a Lifetime

and

The Brave Strong Mermaid





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Snow White
is a special princess — full of ideas,
fun and courage. When her evil
stepfather tries to chase her out
of the kingdom she uses her wits
and bravery to win the day!



Enjoy all the magic of the traditional fairytale, with a brave, strong
Snow White to inspire your child.

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